

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, July 30, 2001
Volume 37—Number 30
Pages 1077–1113

Contents

Addresses and Remarks

See also Bill Signings; Meetings With Foreign Leaders
Congressional Gold Medal, presentation to Navajo Code Talkers—1105
Congressional leaders, meeting—1099
Kosovo, U.S. troops at Camp Bondsteel—1095
National Future Farmers of America Organization—1108
Radio address—1077
Virginia gubernatorial candidate Mark Earley—1103

Bill Signings

Senator Paul Coverdell, legislation honoring, remarks—1102
Supplemental Appropriations Act, FY 2001, statement—1096

Communications to Congress

Middle East peace process, message transmitting report on national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt—1094
Plan Colombia, message transmitting report—1108
Yugoslavia, former, letter reporting on deployment of military forces for stabilization—1098

Communications to Federal Agencies

Charter for Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia, memorandum—1101
Emergency refugee and migration assistance, memorandum—1107

Interviews With the News Media

Exchanges with reporters
Cabinet Room—1099

Interviews With the News Media—Continued

Genoa, Italy—1078, 1079
Oval Office—1103
News conferences
July 22 (No. 13) with President Putin of Russia—1081
July 23 (No. 14) with Prime Minister Berlusconi of Italy—1088

Joint Statements

President George W. Bush and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir V. Putin—1086, 1087

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

France, President Chirac—1078
Germany, Chancellor Schroeder—1079
Italy, Prime Minister Berlusconi—1088
Russia, President Putin—1081, 1086, 1087
Vatican, Pope John Paul II—1087

Proclamations

National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day—1100
Parents' Day—1079

Statements by the President

See also Bill Signings
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, anniversary—1106
Balkans—1097

Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—1113
Checklist of White House press releases—1112
Digest of other White House announcements—1111
Nominations submitted to the Senate—1111

Editor's Note: The Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents is also available on the Internet on the *GPO Access* service at <http://www.gpo.gov/nara/nara003.html>.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under

regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for \$80.00 per year (\$137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for \$93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is \$3.00 (\$3.75 for foreign mailing).

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Week Ending Friday, July 27, 2001

The President's Radio Address

July 21, 2001

Good morning. As you hear this, I am in Genoa, Italy, at an important meeting of the world's most industrialized nations and Russia. Our focus this year is on the poor and struggling nations of the world and what prosperous democracies can do to help them build a better future. This cause is the priority of the United States' foreign policy.

We're a wealthy nation with responsibilities to help others. It is also in our best interest to do so, because we benefit when we have strong and stable partners around the world who trade with us and help keep the peace.

Our discussions here in Europe are centered on some great goals. We want to spread the benefits of free trade as far and as wide as possible. Free trade is the only proven path out of poverty for developing nations. And when nations are shut off from the world, their people pay a steep price.

Despite trade's proven track record for lifting the lives of the poor, some still oppose it. They seek to deny the poor and developing countries their best hope for escaping poverty. Legitimate concerns about labor standards, economic dislocation, and the environment should be addressed and will be. But the developing countries have no need for protectionist policies that would condemn them to permanent poverty.

Yet, trade alone is not enough. Wealthy nations must also work in true partnership with developing countries to help them overcome obstacles to their development, such as illiteracy, disease, and unsustainable debt. This is compassionate conservatism at an international level, and it is the responsibility that comes with freedom and prosperity.

To advance literacy in the developing world, I proposed that the United States increase funding for our international education assistance programs by nearly 20 per-

cent. And we will lead a new effort to improve basic education and teacher training in Africa. We've proposed that the World Bank and other development banks increase the share of their funding devoted to education and to tie this support more directly to clear measurable results. And we have proposed that up to half of all the funds provided by development banks to the poorest countries be provided as grants rather than loans for education, health, and human needs.

Today, many poor nations are benefiting from efforts to relieve them of the crippling burden of massive debt. But debt relief is ultimately a short-term fix. My proposal doesn't merely drop the debt; it helps stop the debt.

A final item of business at our Genoa summit is to launch a new global fund to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. The U.S. contributes nearly a billion dollars a year annually to international efforts to combat AIDS and infectious diseases, and we stand ready to contribute more to the global fund as it demonstrates its success.

This is a time of great opportunity. What some call globalization is in fact the triumph of human liberty across national borders. We have today the chance to prove that freedom can work, not just in the new world or old world but in the whole world. Our great challenge is to include all the world's poor in an expanding circle of development throughout all the Americas and all of Asia and all of Africa. Such a world will enjoy greater freedom and prosperity and is far more likely to be at peace.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:55 p.m. on July 17 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 21. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 20 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With
President Jacques Chirac of France
in Genoa, Italy**

July 21, 2001

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you for coming by. I'm looking forward to our discussion. The meetings have been very productive here in Genoa. We've discussed a lot of important issues and agreed upon—had some important agreements, starting with the need to advance trade in the new round of global trade discussions.

We also understand that countries such as France and the United States must assume more responsibility, helping nations help themselves, particularly on the continent of Africa. We had a fantastic meeting last night with some of the continent's leaders. President Chirac was most eloquent about Africa and our responsibilities, and world leaders agreed with him, and I did, too.

And as well, I'm very concerned about the violence. It's a tragic loss of life that occurred. It's also tragic that many police officers have been hurt, men and women who have been trying to protect democratically elected leaders and our necessary right to be able to discuss our common problems.

In Washington, DC, Mr. President, I said as clearly as I could, and I'll say it here again, those who claim to represent the voices of the poor aren't doing so. Those protesters who try to shut down our talks on trade and aid don't represent the poor, as far as I'm concerned.

I appreciate the work of the Italian Government, the mayor of Genoa, the good people of this country for providing a secure atmosphere where the G-8, democratically elected leaders, as well as leaders from Africa, Central America, Asia—leaders who represent the poor of the world could come—the poor of the world, by the way, who spoke very clearly and eloquently about the need for nations such as ours to open up our markets, nations such as ours to help develop education infrastructures, nations such as ours to forgive debt—

President Chirac. And health.

President Bush. —and health, absolutely, and health. So this has been a very productive meeting. It's been productive be-

cause we've met and agreed. It's also very productive because it gives me a chance to continue dialog with a friend such as Jacques Chirac.

People may not remember, but even before I became sworn in as President, in between the election, when it finally ended and my swearing-in, the first world leader I met with was President Chirac. I knew him to be a man of principle. He articulated his principles to me then, and he continues to do so, for which I am most grateful.

So Mr. President, thank you for being here. I'm honored to have you.

President Chirac. *Merci.* I must say that I absolutely share the feelings expressed by President Bush, share as concerns the efficiency of the organization of the summit, the efficiency which has been somewhat overshadowed by the events. But it was, indeed, a very positive summit. And it has enabled us to become aware of the problems of populations of Asia and Africa.

Last night at dinner was very instructive. We have spoken with mainly African leaders who have decided to take greater control over their own destiny, and we have pledged ourselves to support them in their desire for sustainable development.

Obviously, we have all been traumatized by the events. I shall not give any judgment, except to say that the elected leaders of our countries have to consider the problems that have brought tens of thousands of our compatriots, mainly from European countries, to demonstrate—to demonstrate their concern, to demonstrate their wish to change. And my last thoughts will be for the people of Genoa, who have been, indeed, as traumatized as we have by the events in the city.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:06 p.m. at the Jolly Marina Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Giuseppe Pericu of Genoa. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7456—Parents' Day 2001

July 21, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Being a parent is the most important job in the world. As we hold a newborn in our arms or embrace an older adopted child, the promise we make in our hearts to love, protect, and nurture our children stays with us and with them forever. We are eternally linked to the children whom we are blessed to parent and to the generations before us who helped shape our lives.

Both mothers and fathers play a vital role in giving children the best possible start in life. As parents, we provide our children with the love and support they need to grow up to be caring individuals and responsible citizens. The care we express and the values we instill help our children achieve their greatest potential and ultimately will determine the future of our Nation.

Unfortunately, children who lack a strong parental presence in their lives can suffer over both the short and the long term. Study after study has demonstrated that children who grow up without both parents in their home are more likely to end up in poverty, drop out of school, become addicted to drugs, have a child out of wedlock, or go to prison. Single-parented children who avoid these unfortunate outcomes will nevertheless miss out on the balance, unity, and stability that a two-parent family can bring.

Recognizing that strong families make a strong America, I have committed my Administration to help parents do better by encouraging the formation and maintenance of loving families. We have proposed several major initiatives designed to promote responsible fatherhood, strengthen families, and make adoption easier and more affordable, so that every child has a better chance of living in a stable and loving home. We also have achieved widespread support for the historic reform of our public education system that will significantly improve our schools. This improvement is founded on the core principles of my education reform agen-

da, which include: accountability; flexibility; local control; and more choices for parents.

Government bears an important responsibility to provide excellent schools and educational programs that leave no child behind; but Government cannot replace the love and nurturing of committed parents that are essential for a child's well-being. Many community organizations, centers of faith, and schools offer services and programs to help parents improve their child-rearing skills. As we observe Parents' Day, I encourage all Americans to join me in honoring the millions of mothers and fathers, biological and adoptive, foster parents, and stepparents, whose selfless love and hard-working efforts are building better lives for their children and our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States and consistent with Public Law 103-362, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 22, 2001, as Parents' Day. I urge all Americans to express their love, respect, support, and appreciation to their parents, and I call upon citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 24, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 25.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany and an Exchange With Reporters in Genoa

July 21, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to be meeting today with one of America's strongest friends and Allies and one of Europe's strongest and best leaders. I appreciate Gerhard Schroeder's openness, his grasp of

issues that are important, not only to Europe but to the world. I told the press earlier that we've had a very, very positive dialog. We discussed a lot of important issues: how to expand global trade as well as how to assume our responsibilities as wealthier nations to the poor nations in a constructive way. It's been a very good experience, and it's also been a positive experience to be able to again sit down with friends and continue our dialog from days gone by.

So Mr. Chancellor, thank you for being here.

Chancellor Schroeder. Thanks.

President Bush. I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions.

Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

Q. Mr. President and Mr. Chancellor, can you both address whether you've reached any kind of accommodation on global warming and the Kyoto treaty?

President Bush. We have reached an accommodation, and here it is.

Q. Can you talk about it?

President Bush. Yes, I'd be glad to. We both agree to reduce greenhouse gases, and we both agree to continue dialog.

Q. On how—the dialog on how it goes on?

President Bush. Right. And I will explain to the Chancellor that our Nation will come with a strategy. We're in the process of developing one. But I can't be any more sincere than I have been in saying that we need to reduce greenhouse gases, and we'll work a plan to do so.

But I've also been very open with the Chancellor from my very first visit in the Oval Office, that the methodology in the Kyoto accord is something that would harm our Nation's economy. And therefore, we're looking for different alternatives to achieve the same goal.

And I will tell you this, in Sweden, Chancellor Schroeder was very, very strong in his statement about Kyoto and very positive about his position there; on the other hand—was explained to the other leaders that my position, while he didn't agree with it, was one that he understood. And I appreciated very much his leadership there.

Chancellor Schroeder. Certainly, the President is very right in just saying that we

do share the same targets here. Both of us are thinking that it is very important that we do substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions. That is very important, indeed. And we will, obviously, have to get into a very intensive dialog about these things. This will have to happen; some things will have to happen as a consequence of it.

Now, obviously, on the tool of Kyoto, as such, we do differ when it comes to the assessment thereof. But obviously, we have done so in a very open, in a very friendly matter, dealing with one another in a constructive way as friends. And I think friends do deal with these things as friends, and we certainly do.

Upcoming Meeting With President Vladimir Putin of Russia

Q. Do you plan to make a specific proposal to President Putin tomorrow on a strategic framework? Did you see an outline or something?

President Bush. I plan to have a very honest and open dialog with the President that will continue our discussions about how to keep the peace. I intend to share with the German Chancellor the nature of our discussion in the past and, again, what I intend to talk about tomorrow.

I think it's very important for us to continue making progress on whether or not we can agree to a new strategic framework. As well, we will have high-level talks with others in my administration, with the Russians. It's a very positive development, I think, for the world.

I can tell you right now that my relationship with President Putin is better than it was in Slovenia by virtue of the fact that we're spending more informal time together. One of the benefits of these meetings is that we get to see each other at places other than just sitting around roundtables discussing issues. And so, at the receptions, we've been able to have some idle chatter. Some of it may be of interest to you; some of it probably wouldn't be. But nevertheless, we're able to continue a dialog in a very friendly and open way, and I think that's going to be very important for our ability to work together on a lot of issues, particularly that of a new strategic framework.

Q. But do you see discussing things like specific numbers or his plan for joint——

President Bush. I think it's probably best that I talk to him first. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 6 p.m. at the Jolly Marina Hotel. Chancellor Schroeder spoke in German, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Genoa

July 22, 2001

President Putin. Good morning. We've just finished a meeting with the President of the United States and discussed the issues on a whole wide range of subjects. First and foremost, I wanted to say with great satisfaction that our meeting was held in a very frank and open atmosphere, and there is no doubt, absolutely, that I can say and confirm that we've maintained, not only, but in many ways strengthened the spirit of Ljubljana.

Naturally, we discussed the issues that were raised at the G-8, issues of security, environment, education, security. And the issue here led us to discuss the world architecture of the 21st century and the way to improve civilization in the future.

I can frankly tell you that this part we discussed together. Just one-on-one with the President, it seemed to me that his thoughts and his mental reasoning is very deep, very profound. We were both very interested in having a continuation of this dialog with the American people, with its leader. Approaches which were stated by the President in the past, without any doubt, are going to be studied by us, and I can repeat once again will be positively accepted.

President Bush and I have analyzed how our recent accords are now being implemented. We've put forth several new steps in terms of setting forth a long-term cooperation which is not subject to any kind of dealmakings but a very good, sound, long-lasting attitude. Today in Russia we have a very positive dynamism, and we have stated that, as well.

The differences in approaches on a couple of topics is still there. However, what is more important is that we are aimed—both of us are aiming at partnership, to look forward, well reasoned, well balanced, carefully weighed approaches and solutions.

Naturally, we discussed the issue of strategic stability. There we spent a lot of time. We talked in great detail. We've reached a most important accord, agreement on the beginning and the schedule for consultations. In Ljubljana we talked about setting up a working group or series of working groups. As you know, in Moscow here, in a few days, Condoleezza Rice will come to visit us, and we will work out, finally, the group structure within the overall interagency structure of foreign ministry, defense ministry, and others.

I have to say that to some extent what was unexpected both for me and, I think, for President Bush, as well, was the understanding that was reached today between us on the issue that the offensive arms and issue of defensive arms will be discussed as a set. We're going to be talking about the mutual striving toward cutting back significantly offensive arms. We're not really ready at this time to talk about the threshold limits or the numbers, themselves, but a joint striving exists and the specialists will get together, and they'll make some recommendations. But we are aiming at moving in that direction.

I told the President of the United States about our proposal, vis-à-vis, the start of consultations on strategic stability issues as a whole. And I think that in the very nearest future, I repeat once again, that our specialists are going to work in this direction. I think they're going to make a lot of progress and be quite successful.

Naturally, we discussed very, very sharp problems in regional issues. We talked about joining our forces in trying to solve some conflicts. We repeat again that the overall dialog on getting our positions coordinated is the very best approach to U.S.-Russian relations.

Bilateral issues were especially stressed, economic cooperation. And I have to say here that we have a common approach towards developing very dynamically in this sphere. We have very good precedents and very good foundations for this.

We also know that our business societies are also very interested in this. We've discussed a series of contacts and the schedule for upcoming contacts in the economic field, talked about our next meeting, the nearest one will be the APEC meeting in Shanghai, and then the President very kindly confirmed his invitation to me to come to the United States, and we talked about that agenda, too.

So that's all I wanted to say as an opening remark.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President. First, both of us believe strongly that the summit we just attended was a success, and we want to thank the people of Italy and Genoa for their hospitality.

Secondly, we did have a very constructive dialog—certainly made—made my impressions of Slovenia—confirmed my impressions of Slovenia, that this was a man with whom I could have an honest dialog, that we can discuss our opportunities and have frank discussion of our differences, which we did.

I appreciate so very much President Putin's willingness to think differently about how to make the world more peaceful. He cares deeply about the citizens of his land. I, obviously, care deeply about the citizens of my land. We're young leaders who are interested in forging a more peaceful world.

And along these lines, as the President said, that we're going to have open and honest dialog about defensive systems as well as reduction of offensive systems. The two go hand in hand in order to set up a new strategic framework for peace. And along these lines, as the President mentioned, my National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, will be visiting in Moscow, the purpose of which is to lay out a specific timetable of discussions between our defense ministers and our foreign ministers.

So as we can continue progress to find common ground in a—to make the world more peaceful, both of us want to seize the moment and lead. And I appreciate this attitude so very much with President Putin.

Secondly, we did talk, spent time discussing economic cooperation. There will be a statement put out after the meeting on both, by the way, the strategic framework discussions as well as the economic cooperation

along these lines. Secretary Evans and Secretary O'Neill will be in Moscow next week to discuss a wide range of topics.

But one of the things that is clear and evident is that the President understands the need to create a framework for entrepreneurial activity. As I mentioned in my last press conference, I will mention this again, I am impressed by the fact that he has instituted tax reform, a flat tax. And as he pointed out to me, it is one of the lowest tax rates in Europe. He and I share something in common: We both proudly stand here as tax reformers. And I think the American business leaders who look to Russia will appreciate certainty in the tax code and certainly will appreciate a lower tax rate than in other places.

But we've got a lot of areas for growth and discussion, ranging from international trade to investment opportunities within the Federation.

With that, I will be glad to answer—both of us will be glad to answer a few questions from you. Let's make your questions short, so that we won't leave my wife waiting at the tarmac in Rome. [*Laughter*]

Strategic Stability/Global Warming

Q. You were saying just a little while ago about how strategic stability and space has been discussed. How do you see the biggest difficulties in this dialog? What are the principal differences between the two countries? And how do you see overcoming these differences?

And your proposal on conference, holding a conference in Moscow on the environment, how were the other G-8 partners receiving your invitation to Moscow?

President Putin. As far as the ABM Treaty and the issues of offensive arms, I've already said we've come to the conclusion that two of these issues have to be discussed as a set, as one set. This is no doubt whatsoever; one and the other are very closely tied. Neither one nor the other side should feel it's somehow threatened or constrained.

I felt and continue to feel that these most important kinds of issues—we have to maintain a balance, thanks to which mankind could live in an environment of stability and

relative peace. This is an issue of principle, and that's first.

Second, we share the position of the U.S. President on the need to have large cuts in offensive arms. I've already spoken to this, and together, we're going to move forward in this direction, substantially changing the situation in the world, making it better throughout the whole world, reducing the thresholds of confrontation. Without any doubt, this would ameliorate the climate throughout the whole world. There has to be absolutely no doubt that this is going to happen.

Now, as far as your issue on the international conference in Russia on the ecology or the environment and reducing the dangers to the environment, I can say the following: Prior to coming here to Genoa, I held a meeting with our specialists, with our physicists, our scientists, members of the cabinet who are involved in environmental affairs. And I have to say that in Russia, we have some people, some specialists who are known throughout the world, really big-time specialists, and they told me that even if we fully implement the Kyoto Protocol, fully, this is going to affect the climate as it is today, but the changes to that will be very minor. In other words, the Kyoto Protocol is simply not sufficient to substantially improve the ecology in the world, although the movement that we're moving in is in the right direction.

But I want to say that Russia is still for the Kyoto Protocol. But what's important is that the scientists themselves, political leaders, ecologists, people in society, Government leaders, never, ever got together once. Each of these groups sits there alone and out of their own corner reviews this issue. And the thought was to get everybody together on one common platform.

This was supported very energetically by the President of the United States and by other colleagues. Along with that, President Chirac stressed the need to attract the civilian population, the non-specialists, to have them participate, people from society at large. And for this, I want to thank our colleagues for having supported this.

Thank you very much.

ABM Treaty/Nuclear Arms Reductions

Q. President Putin said several days after your first meeting that Russia would increase its nuclear arsenal—[*inaudible*]. Have you convinced him to scrap the ABM Treaty without building up his nuclear arsenal?

And to you, Mr. President, you just said there is absolutely no doubt that there will be reductions on the Russian side of its nuclear arsenal. Does that mean that you are no longer saying that you will increase your arsenal if the U.S. proceeds with missile defense? Have you changed your position?

President Bush. Well, first, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], let me start by saying how optimistic I am about the possibilities of reaching an accord. One of the things about the person with whom I'm talking, President Putin, is that he has agreed, like I have agreed, to find common ground, if possible. So I believe that we will come up with an accord. Let me say this: I know we'll work hard to an accord, to see if we can't reach an accord about both a new strategic framework for defensive weapons as well as the need to reduce offensive weapons in order to make the world more peaceful.

The only thing I can do is characterize, once again characterize our discussions as open and optimistic and very positive. I was struck by how easy it is to talk to President Putin, how easy it is to speak from my heart, without, you know, fear of complicating any relationship. And I enjoyed listening to what he has to say, as well.

I'm optimistic that we can get something done. And it's with that spirit that we send Condi Rice to Moscow to formalize the process, to answer questions. Inevitably, there will be questions because, after all, what we're talking about doing is changing a mindset of the world. We're basically saying, the cold war is forever over, and the vestiges of the cold war that locked us both into a hostile situation are over. And we're exploring the opportunity to redefine the strategic framework for keeping the peace not that as existed in the past but a strategic framework as we go out in the 21st century. It's an exciting opportunity. And I can tell you that the discussions have been very meaningful.

Mr. President.

President Putin. Thank you. Now, as far as possible answer or response, as you say, from Russia, in the event that one side leaves the ABM Treaty, from the 1972 treaty, then I can say the following: We were talking about the possible kinds and versions of response in the event that one side comes out unilaterally. I was not talking about increasing the missiles. I was talking about how you would substitute single-unit warheads, make them MIRV warheads.

But as we said today—if as we said today and if as we understood from each other today, we are ready to look at the issue of offensive and defensive systems together as a set, we might not ever need to look at that option. But this is one of the subjects of our future discussions.

As a whole we agreed, in general, that in any version, today we can go forward toward reducing offensive arms. I'm telling you this with full responsibility, and I'm telling you that within—this is an issue of the qualitative and quantitative numbers. But this is, of course—we'll let the specialists sit down and talk about those numbers.

G-8 Summit

Q. A question to both Presidents. Please tell us how you assess the Genoa summit results from the point of view of the future G-8s, because you've got all these anti-globalist demonstrators and others.

President Bush. Well, I'm looking forward to future G-8 summits. People should be allowed to protest in a peaceful way. The great thing about freedom is, it provides an outlet for people to express their differences.

Having said that, I believe that which we discussed today and the last couple of days will make the world a heck of a lot more prosperous and peaceful place. The philosophy of free trade and starting a new round of free trade discussions makes eminent sense, not only for those who happen to be prosperous today but for those who aren't.

And all the demonstrators and all the folks have to do is ask the leaders who came from the developing nations. Ask my friend from El Salvador what trade means to him. And so I reiterate what I said before. People are allowed to protest, but for those who claim they're speaking on behalf of the poor, for

those who claim that shutting down trade will benefit the poor, they're dead wrong.

President Putin. I have to tell you that the people who are out on the streets, then talked about the issues of the poor countries and their problems, and those who gathered within the framework of the 8 were all taken by one and the same series of issues. In this sense, we can say that we're all of the same mind. But unlike those who chose the extremist ways of expressing their minds, those who worked here tried to find solutions, ways to get to the end solution, specific kinds of solutions, which realistically could affect, I hope, will affect the condition in which the very poorest countries are living in the world today.

That's why I very highly praise the results, the level, and the nature and the character of these discussions. I think we need these kinds of meetings, and I think they will continue. Naturally, we're going to have to pay more attention to the quality of the kinds of decisions that we take and how to implement them fully to the end.

Now as far as the dialog with civil society, one of the fora and one of the ways of discussing is in a civilized fashion. We can only—and one of the ways of doing it is holding the international conference in Moscow in 2003 and talking about the environment.

Thank you.

Strength of the Dollar

Q. Mr. President, I understand that currency issues were discussed at the leaders' summit. I'm wondering, how did you explain the benefits of a strong dollar, since you've already acknowledged that it hurts U.S. exporters, and over here it's putting inflationary pressure on the ECB and stopping them from cutting interest rates?

And President Putin, I'm just wondering how does a strong dollar affect your economy? Thank you.

President Bush. Well, let me reiterate what I said after my World Bank speech. The dollar needs to float in the marketplace, and that the dollar—if the market is allowed to function, the dollar will be at an appropriate level. And there are both, obviously, there are some that want us to artificially—the dollar in our country, and that's not the role,

in my judgment, of the country. The market ought to do that, not the Nation.

And so I continued to assure my friends and allies that we will let the market adjust. I also assured them that we were taking the steps necessary within our country to strengthen our economy.

I was able to herald the fact that the first rebate checks made it into the mail, and I heralded it from a remote location, here in Genoa. And the reason I bring that up is that many of the world leaders are deeply concerned about the slowdown of the U.S. economy and its effect not only on the dollar but also the effect on trade. And I assured them that from a fiscal perspective: One, we're going to hold the line on spending, that we had a budget, and I expect Congress to meet the budget; secondly, that we did reduce taxes substantially and the first wave of tax relief was in the mail; and thirdly, that our Fed, independent of the Government, was making the monetary decisions. And I think people were pleased to hear that we're working hard to revitalize our economy.

President Putin. The United States are the main trade and economic partner for Russia. And this is the main investor in Russia, of all the investors, and one of the main economic and trade partners. So the stability of the U.S. economy substantially affects our economic situation.

As you know, over the last year in Russia we've noticed certain positive trends, and there is no doubt in our minds that we're interested in the stability of the U.S. economy as a whole and their currency. The dollar for us is the most important—the main form of payment in most of our operations.

Thank you.

Situation in the Balkans and the Middle East

Q. Which regional conflicts, in your estimation, are the greatest threat to international security? What were the results when you discussed these issues at the G-8? And what jointly could U.S. and Russia do in this arena?

President Putin. Well, of course, these are the Balkans and the Middle East, above all. I have to say that I'm satisfied by the nature of the results of this discussion. But

it seems to me that this time we heard each other—heard each other much more, much better, understand each positions much better in all these conflict areas.

And what's important—I don't know if my colleague will agree with me, but I get the feeling that trust in each other, within the framework of trying to settle these issues, is beginning to arrive. This is very important foundation, trust. So we're going to continue coordinating our efforts both in the Balkans and the Middle East, taking into account the interests of all the parties that are drawn into this conflict.

And on the way toward coordinating our efforts, we have to work out unified approaches. And this—here lies the success. This is very important. Because if we create some kind of cracks or fissures through which you can have leakage of certain extremist forces, it's going to wreck the whole process. So here, getting together, drawing together, here was very positive and a positive nature.

Thank you.

U.S. Global Warming Proposal

Q. Thank you, sir. Mr. President, President Chirac and Prime Minister Chretien both say that you promised to have a global warming package ready for the Marrakech meeting in September. Your staff says that that's not quite true. Who is right, sir? What exactly did you tell the leaders?

President Bush. Well, given the room temperature here I'm not surprised you brought up the subject of warming. [*Laughter*] So I'll try to keep my answer short, for the benefit of all, particularly those of us who must do something in Rome.

Here's what I said: I said my administration has had a full-scale review of the climate issue; that we're in the process of developing a strategy as quickly as we possibly can and one that we look forward to sharing with our friends and allies; a strategy that begins with the notion that we want to reduce greenhouse gases in America; a strategy, also, that takes a realistic look at how best to do so, a look based upon science and a look with the notion that we can have economic growth and sound environmental policy.

I made it clear to our friends and allies that the methodology of the current protocol

is one that, if implemented, would severely affect economic growth in America, and that I believe that it makes sense for those who trade with us to make sure that our environmental policy is one that continues to stimulate economic activity so that trade means something between nations.

The spirit of our dialog was very positive. I guess you could say that I broke the ice during my last trip to Europe, so people understood exactly where I was coming from. There should be no doubt in their mind about our position, that we share the goal, but we believe that—strongly believe that we need to find a methodology of achieving the goal that won't wreck the U.S. economy.

And we're making progress on that. I'm very confident that the leaders appreciated my straightforwardness the last time I came to Europe and my willingness to continue to dialog on this very important issue.

We have a representative at the Bonn summit. I saw her on TV the other day; she made the case very clearly—Paula made the case very clearly about what our position is. And the Europeans are interested in the strategy that we're going to adopt. And when it's formulated, I will present it to them, and I look forward to doing that. And they're going to find out that when I say we're interested in reducing greenhouse gases that we mean it. They're also going to be pleased to hear that it's going to be in such a way that won't damage their largest trading partner, and so will the American people, who want to make sure that there's work and jobs available.

With that, I want to, again, thank my friend. I look forward to future dialog. Thank you all very much for your questions. And again, we thank the good people of Italy for their kind hospitality.

President Putin. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 13th news conference began at 2:52 p.m. at the Palazzo Doria Spinola. In his remarks, he referred to Paula J. Dobriansky, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. President Putin referred to President Jacques Chirac of France; MIRV, the Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicle; and ECB, the European Central Bank. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A portion of this news conference

could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

July 22, 2001

In keeping with the spirit of our Ljubljana discussions, we welcome the initiative of the American and Russian business communities to provide new impetus to our bilateral trade and investment relations through the creation of the "Russian American Business Dialogue."

We expect the Dialogue to perform three key functions: expand contact between our two business communities; identify areas where laws, regulations and practices impede trade and investment; and provide a forum where business interests could be raised with our respective governments. We seek to promote economic reform, a transparent and predictable investment climate and rule of law, and to work towards the Russian Federation's early accession to the WTO.

The Dialogue will be open to interested American and Russian companies and business associations. We hope thereby to encourage participation by large, medium, and especially small enterprises from a broad cross-section of industry sectors, including, in particular, technology businesses. We welcome the offer of the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia, the U.S.-Russia Business Council, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, and the Russian-American Business Council to steer this effort.

We embrace the offer of the Dialogue organizers to prepare formal reports of the Dialogue for use by the governments of the Russian Federation and the United States. We affirm our commitment to send cabinet level representatives to receive the first formal report of the Dialogue at a meeting of the Dialogue early next year.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir V. Putin on Upcoming Consultations on Strategic Issues

July 22, 2001

We agreed that major changes in the world require concrete discussions of both offensive and defensive systems. We already have some strong and tangible points of agreement. We will shortly begin intensive consultations on the interrelated subjects of offensive and defensive systems.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Pope John Paul II at Castle Gandolfo, Italy

July 23, 2001

Pope John Paul II. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you on your first visit since you assumed the office of the President of the United States. I warmly greet the distinguished First Lady and the members of your entourage. I express heartfelt good wishes that your Presidency will strengthen your country in its commitment to the principles which inspired American democracy from the beginning and sustained the Nation and its remarkable growth. These principles remain as valid as ever as you face the challenges of the new country opening up before us.

Your Nation's Founders, conscious of the immense natural and human resources with which your land has been blessed by the Creator, were guided by a profound sense of responsibility towards the common good to be pursued in respect for the God-given dignity and inalienable rights of all. America continues to measure herself by the nobility of her founding vision in building this society of liberty, equality, and justice under the law. In the century which has just ended, these same ideals inspired the American people to resist two totalitarian systems, based on an atheistic vision of man and society.

At the beginning of this new century, which also marks the beginning of the third

millennium of Christianity, the world continues to look to America with hope. And it does so with an acute awareness of the crisis of values being experienced in Western society, ever more insecure in the face of the ethical decisions, indispensable for humanity's future course.

In recent days, the world's attention has been focused on the process of globalization which has so greatly accelerated in the past decade, and which you and other leaders of the industrialized nations have discussed in Genoa. While appreciating the opportunities for economic growth and material prosperity, which this process offers, the church cannot but express profound concern that our world continues to be divided no longer by the former political and military blocs but by a tragic faultline between those who can benefit from these opportunities and those who seem cut off from them.

The revolution of freedom of which I spoke at the United Nations in 1995 must now be completed by a revolution of opportunity, in which all the world's people actively contribute to the economic prosperity and share in its fruits. This requires leadership by those nations whose religious and cultural traditions should make them most attentive to the moral dimension of the issues involved.

Respect for human dignity and belief in the equal dignity of all the members of the human family demand policies aimed at enabling all people to access to the means required to improve their lives, including the technological means and skills needed for development. Respect for nature by everyone, a policy of openness to immigrants, the cancellation or significant reduction of the debt of poorer nations, the promotion of peace through dialog and negotiation, the primacy of the rule of law—these are the priorities which the leaders of the developed countries cannot disregard. A global world is essentially a world of solidarity. From this point of view, America, because of her many resources, cultural traditions and religious values, has a special responsibility.

Respect for human dignity finds one of its highest expressions in religious freedom. This right is the first listed in your Nation's Bill of Rights, and it is significant that the

promotion of religious freedom continues to be an important goal of American policy in the international community. I want to express the appreciation of the whole Catholic Church for America's commitment in this regard.

Another area in which political and moral choices have the gravest consequences for the future of civilization concerns the most fundamental of human rights, the right to life itself. Experience is already showing how a tragic coarsening of consciences accompanies the assault on innocent human life in the womb, leading to accommodation and acquiescence in the face of other related evils, such as euthanasia, infanticide, and most recently, proposals for the creation for research purposes of human embryos, destined to destruction in the process.

A free and virtuous society, which America aspires to be, must reject practices that devalue and violate human life at any stage from conception until natural death. In defending the right to life, in law and through a vibrant culture of life, America can show a world the path to a truly humane future in which man remains the master, not the product, of his technology.

Mr. President, as you carry out the tasks of the high office which the American people have entrusted to you, I assure you of a remembrance in my prayers. I am confident that under your leadership, your Nation will continue to draw on its heritage and resources to help build a world in which each member of the human family can flourish and live in a manner worthy of his or her innate dignity. With these sentiments, I cordially invoke upon you and the beloved American people, God's blessings of wisdom, strength, and peace.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. Your Holiness, thank you very much. Mrs. Bush and I are honored to stand with you today. We're grateful for your welcome. You've been to America many times and have spoken to vast crowds. You have met with four American Presidents before me, including my father. In every visit and in every meeting, including our meeting today, you have reminded America that we have a special calling to promote justice and to defend the weak and suffering of the

world. We remember your words, and we will always do our best to remember our calling.

Since October of 1978 you have shown the world not only the splendor of truth but also the power of truth to overcome evil and to redirect the course of history. You have urged men and women of good will to take to their knees before God and to stand unafraid before tyrants. And this has added greatly to the momentum of freedom in our time.

Where there's oppression, you speak of human rights. Where there's poverty, you speak of justice and hope. Where there's ancient hatred, you defend and display a tolerance that reaches beyond every boundary of race and nation and belief. Where there's great abundance, you remind us that wealth must be matched with compassion and moral purpose. And always, to all, you have carried the gospel of life, which welcomes the stranger and protects the weak and the innocent. Every nation, including my own, benefits from hearing and heeding this message of conscience.

Above all, you have carried the message of the Gospel into 126 nations and into the third millennium, always with courage and with confidence. You have brought the love of God into the lives of men, and that good news is needed in every nation and every age.

Thank you again, your Holiness, for your kindness and the honor of this meeting.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 11:46 a.m. in the Papal Library at Castel Gandolfo, summer residence of the Pope. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy in Rome, Italy

July 23, 2001

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Good afternoon, everyone. I am very happy to extend my welcome to President Bush during his first visit to Rome. It's as a friend that I receive him in a free country, a democratic country, that has always been a friend of the United States of America, which, with the

United States of America, has had for over 50 years a very special cooperation based on the feelings of the Atlantic Alliance, the European Union.

Our country is a country that looks to the United States of America with a recognition that must be steadfast, a recognition that derives from a very profound feeling, Mr. President, of those who are aware of the fact that precisely—thanks to your country, to your great democracy, to the young lives that the Americans sacrificed in Italian territory over 50 years ago—Italy ended a very dark moment where totalitarianism had got rid of freedom. And thanks to the sacrifice of the United States and its Allies, we were able to reach democracy, freedom, and we had a period of over half a century in freedom, democracy, and in prosperity.

Therefore, with the feelings of a very great friend, where we recognize the feelings that are at the basis of the American feelings, with the same values that are the basis of your political action, that we receive you, Mr. President. And we, as we know in Genoa, have spent very special moments in Genoa, moments that I will always remember with great pleasure.

And I must tell you that, in Genoa, I admired the way that you opened up towards others. I have to tell you that you conquered American journalists. You conquered everyone, because you were so spontaneous, so natural. It was such a frank way to say things, because yes is yes, no is no.

In politics, we weren't used to seeing all this, and we were always beating around the bush, and we were taking things from the left or the right, up, down, and so on. With President Bush, everything is simple. And at the very end, all the other leaders truly appreciated the manner in which you were pragmatic, you were concrete, and that is how you faced all of the problems.

And I also must add, and here I will end, I, who have already directed a G-8 in Naples 7 years ago, found a new atmosphere, a more positive atmosphere with a greater closeness amongst leaders. And I made this reflection: I said, "It is almost a miracle today, at the beginning of a new century, at the beginning of a new millennium, that having around a table, people looking at each other in their

eyes, with faith and with friendship." We have the Prime Minister of Japan, the President of the United States of America, the Prime Minister of Germany, and the Presidents of England, France, and Italy, and again, the United States President and the President of the Russian Federation.

Only 13 years ago the world was divided in two. There were two ideologies, a wall in the middle, and we thought that planned and collective economies could be a competitive economy against our system of free markets and free enterprise. How the world has changed.

And therefore, I have to tell you that as a citizen, an anybody, I must say that from Genoa, from the talks with President Bush and the other leaders, just by the way you had these relationships with the other leaders in such a frank and open way, we have greater hope. The world today is much more safe than it was a few years ago. And we can truly build, construct for our peoples, but for other peoples, as well, calling them within the virtuous cycle of trade, of exchanges, as friends, with faith, with confidence. We can definitely build a better world.

And thank you, to history in this sense and in this specific instance, I must say thank you to President Bush.

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much. Perhaps the interpreter got it wrong when she says that my performance at the G-8 conquered the American press. [Laughter] If so, I would expect their stories to reflect it from now on. But one thing is for certain: On this, my first trip as President to Italy, I've really enjoyed myself. I can see why so many Americans choose Italy as a place to visit—its fantastic history, beautiful buildings and monuments, and wonderful people.

Mr. Prime Minister, I appreciate your leadership, as well. We share an entrepreneurial spirit. We understand the role of the entrepreneur in our societies. After all, this good man came from humble beginnings to not only build a business enterprise that employs thousands of people but also had the courage to seek political office. And I firmly believe the people of Italy will be well off with my friend as their leader.

And I've got some experience to say that, because I saw him at the G-8. We had meetings where there was nobody else in the room except the leaders of the industrialized world. We had good and honest discussions. But the Prime Minister was a pro, an expert at encouraging dialog and expressing his opinion.

I want to thank the people of Genoa again for the sacrifices they made. I want to thank the law enforcement officials for providing security. I appreciate the Prime Minister and his government for making available the opportunity for those of us who lead our respective nations to come together and have a good, frank dialog, to talk about ways to improve relations amongst ourselves, as well as ways to help those nations not as fortunate as we are. You deserve a lot of credit, Mr. Prime Minister.

Secondly, we've had good discussions today about our bilateral relations. We've got great trade between our nations, and we work together to make sure that trade continues. We've got good military cooperation between our respective lands, and we'll continue to do so. I reconfirmed to the Prime Minister that which I said in NATO, that America came into the Balkans with our friends, and we will leave with our friends. And I appreciate so very much the Italian leadership in the Balkans, not only the general who led our troops at one point in time but, as well, the troops that are still there. Our two nations comprise a large part of the force in keeping the peace.

I also want to say something about the development in Indonesia. The people of Indonesia, by addressing their leadership crisis under their Constitution and laws, have shown commitment to the rule of law and democracy. We hope all parties will work together to maintain peace, support the Constitution, and promote national reconciliation.

We appreciate President Wahid's work the last 2 years in leading Indonesia through its democratic transition. We look forward to working with President Megawati and her team to address Indonesia's challenges of economic reform, peaceful resolution of separatist challenges, and maintaining territorial integrity.

Mr. Prime Minister, once again, thank you for your friendship, and thank you for the friendship of the Italian people with the American people.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. Thank you. There were agreements, and we drew the journalists that are going to ask the questions. The name that was given to me is the name, Mr. Dennis Ismore.

Meeting With the Pope/Italy-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, was it a surprise for you to hear today from the Holy Father on his declarations on manipulations of embryos? And how do you intend to take it into consideration as you examine the decision about Federal funds to research, especially in view of what you've said before regarding your decision?

And to Prime Minister Berlusconi, the relationship between Italy and the United States, does it go through Europe, or on what topics do you believe that Italy has a privileged and specific role? Because the communique was not very precise on this.

President Bush. We have the two-question strategy. [*Laughter*] A person is allowed to ask one question, but they manage to convert it to two. I suspect that may be the case with some of the American press, as well.

First, let me say how honored I was to be able to be in the presence of the Holy Father. It was a moment I was looking forward to because of his profound impact on the world. He's an extraordinary man who is, by virtue of his leadership and his conscience and his presence, has not only affected political systems but affected the hearts and souls of thousands of people all around the world. And it's hard to describe—I'm not poetic enough to describe what it's like to be in his presence.

Nor was I surprised to hear his strong, consistent message of life. It's been his message ever since he's been the Holy Father. He's never deviated. He sent a consistent word throughout the church and throughout society that we ought to take into account the preciousness of life.

I hear that message from his cardinals and bishops throughout our country. One of the

things about the Catholic Church that I admire, it's a church that stands on consistent and solid principle. And of course, I'll take that point of view into consideration as I make up my mind on a very difficult issue confronting the United States of America. It's the need to balance value and respect for life with the promise of science and the hope of saving life.

And so I will go back home, after what has been a very successful trip, continue to listen to points of view, and make up my mind when I'm ready to. And when I do, I'll make the case to the American people.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. As far as the question that was asked, I think that the statement comprises all of the sectors where we all have the same views, and therefore, we have the same political identity that derives from the same values, from the same way of looking at things and the events in the world. I think that this is the basis of a cooperation that can be a very tight one, indeed.

As far as the European Union, we know that the European Union wants to have a task force that will cooperate and work with NATO. It asks NATO to provide the elements that the task force in the beginning would not have on its own, but again, with cooperation and working with NATO. And I do believe that this is something positive, because it would not be logical, it would not be possible to continue, for NATO to come in, intervene on its own in all of those situations that arise in the world in order to make sure that they go in to take care of those wounds that become chronic ulcers.

Therefore, I think that it's fair that if Europe wants to become politically strong, that wants to express itself with a single voice, I was saying it should have its own military force. However, I believe that this military force must be fully synchronized with the NATO forces. And it might be able to intervene by itself with preventative agreements with NATO, so that NATO does not have to face every single situation in the world. As far as the United States, it's a very intense trade relationship in both directions.

Last week we signed an agreement for a greater cooperation in technological and scientific research. I believe that this can be

useful even in difficult situations, like the situations of the factors that increase the temperature on the planet. I think that every single topic, every single situation should go back to the fundamental agreement that is borne from the historic reasons that I mentioned, and which consolidates itself due to the fact that we have a common basis of values and principles, and today, also due to the human liking and the sympathy that we have that has developed between the President of the Italian Government and the President of the United States.

President Bush. This man is from NBC, Mr. Prime Minister, NBC.

Stem Cell Research

Q. Mr. President, I'd like to return to the issue of your decision regarding stem cell research. I was struck by the fact that the Pope specifically condemned the creation of embryonic stem cells for the purpose of research, when, in fact, one central element of what you're grappling with is the research on existing stem cells. Can you elaborate on what you two discussed in that regard? Are there areas that you're considering that he did not address? And I'm not asking you to provide us with what you're going to do, but can you at least share with us what options are out there, what compromises you might be looking at?

President Bush. David [David Gregory, NBC News], I think it's important for the American people to know that I take this issue very seriously, because it is an issue that, on the one hand, deals with so much hope, hope that perhaps through research and development we'll be able to save lives. It's also an issue that has got serious moral implications. And our Nation must think carefully before we proceed. And therefore, my process has been, frankly, unusually deliberative for my administration. I'm taking my time.

I, frankly, do not care what the political polls say. I do care about the opinions of people, particularly someone as profound as the Holy Father. But I will tell you that the first time the subject came up was when he read his statement at the palace, at his summer palace. And my discussions with the Holy Father were more about foreign policy. He was

interested in my view of the world and my discussions with President Putin, for example. He was most interested in what went on at Genoa.

And so his statement was very consistent, a consistent part of the philosophy that the Catholic Church has embraced. But that's the only time it came up, Dave.

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—options—*

President Bush. Well, I'm thinking about all options, but I'm thinking about them privately. In all due respect to a great—one of several great news organizations, I'd rather not be expressing—laying my options out on the air, because I have yet to reach a conclusion. And when I do, I will lay it out to you. I don't know if you'll be first, but I'll lay it out to the American people.

And the American people will know that this decision has been made in all due deliberations, with sound deliberations, that it's an important decision. And I think people understand that it is that way, and it's important for America to fully understand the ramifications. And time has helped people understand the complexities of the issue. And when I get back, I will continue my deliberations, and when I'm ready, I will lay out my decision.

National Missile Defense

Q. Mr. President, yesterday there was a step ahead made in the relations between Russia and the United States for the defense of missile systems. Don't you think that the United States and President Bush perhaps need a better—a more explicit support from its European Allies in this type of dialog? Are you willing to do this, as opposed to other European countries? It's been talked for about \$60 billion to \$100 billion of investment for the strategic missile defense. Will you share some of that money with European companies, in investments in technology and, especially, with some of the Italian companies? They're very advanced in that.

Thank you.

President Bush. We did have a major discussion about how best to keep the peace. I was really pleased with the conversation I've had, with President Putin. It was the second such conversation I've had, and we're making good progress toward understanding,

And the understanding is that the cold war is over: Russia is not the enemy of the United States and that freedom-loving people should address the true threats of the 21st century. And those threats are, amongst other things, the ability of a rogue nation to have weapons of mass destruction, which could affect the United States or Italy or Russia or anybody else who embraces freedom.

And it seems to me that we must do the research and development necessary, research and development prohibited by the current treaty that codifies the old cold war mentality of distrust. And we have yet to do that. We have yet to fully explore the opportunities and options available to not only the United States but our Allies, as to how to keep the peace.

So it's premature for me to answer not only how much the systems will cost but who will participate. I will tell you this: The spirit of collaboration and cooperation should indicate to our friends and Allies that we're more than willing to cooperate. We've discussed the issue, and I'm so much thankful to my friend for being supportive and forward-leaning when others have been skeptical.

And in the appropriate time, when we figure out the best way to address the true threats, which is the ability to intercept twos—launches of twos or threes that could hold us hostage and affect all our foreign policies—then we will work on the development. And the development of the systems may very well entail cooperation with our friends and Allies. I'm very openminded on this subject.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. As President Bush has just mentioned, in Brussels, during the NATO meeting, I spoke, and then I spoke at Göteborg during the dinner that we shared. And I said that I was in agreement with what President Bush had said very clearly. The world scene has changed. There is no antagonism between Europe and the United States, on the one hand, and the Soviet Union on the other hand. The Soviet Union is something different.

And we're very interested as Europeans with the support of the United States; we look to a progressive journey of the Russian Federation. Maybe tomorrow, the day after, the Russian Federation might even become

part of the European federation, where we have countries that share a common Christian civilization. And I believe that in the future we will also be able to speak of a Russian Federation that becomes part of the Atlantic Alliance.

Our enemies are elsewhere. Potentially, our enemies are elsewhere. Of course, we know that we will need some time before certain countries that do not give us full confidence will be able to build strategic weapons with a range that allows them to go to far-off places like the United States. But undoubtedly, the situation is worrisome, and I believe that it would be logical to preserve the security of Europe and the United States, making sure that we keep an eye on these potentialities, on these dangers.

I think that President Bush was extremely clear when he said that these topics the United States is willing to talk about with the European Allies. On our side, I think that this is something that must be done. We have said this. We will always be next to the United States in order to take part in this discussion, going well beyond the attitudes of certain European states, which still, today, have not, in my opinion, understood how the world has changed and how we should start worrying about the future.

Q. Mr. President, if I could follow up on missile defense. It seems there was a little bit of ambiguity about what happened yesterday. Does the agreement that you reached with President Putin yesterday commit your administration to slowing down or in any way delaying the development of missile technologies and the withdrawing from the ABM Treaty until after the two nations have reached an agreement about both offensive and defensive systems? Or will you just continue to develop these technologies and withdraw from the Treaty when you see fit?

And Mr. Prime Minister, if I could just follow up, how important is an agreement, a formal agreement between Russia and the United States on these matters to Europe-wide support of the U.S. developing these technologies?

President Bush. Since it's your country, I'll give you the last word. I have told President Putin that time matters, that I want to reach an accord sooner, rather than later,

that I'm interested in getting something done with him. That's my first priority. The American people, our friends and Allies, and others should take me for my word when I said in the campaign, and since being the President, that I will consult with our friends and Allies, that I will work with Russia. But make no mistake about it, I think it's important to move beyond the ABM Treaty. I would rather others come with us, but I feel so strongly and passionately on the subject about how to keep the peace in the 21st century, that we'll move beyond, if need be.

But first things first, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], and that is to give President Putin and our friends and Allies ample time to discuss, consider, and understand what I'm trying to say. My friend has been quick to grasp the notion about changing the security arrangements in the world. But others who have said that mutually assured destruction will keep the peace in the future—it's worked in the past; therefore it should be around in the future—need some time to understand the full implications about which we're discussing. And I understand that—particularly President Putin, his nation has been bound by the Treaty. It's a Treaty, of course, that—from which either party can withdraw with ample notice. And I can understand why he wants time, and I'm going to give him some time.

But I also want to emphasize to you that time is of the essence. It is time to move beyond. It is time to begin the research and development, which we have yet to do—the research and development, constrained by the ABM Treaty, to determine that which is feasible. And it's important to do so for a couple of reasons.

One, it's important to discard the old cold war mentality. And I explained that to President Putin, and I believe he understands that America is no longer Russia's enemy, that we have a chance to fashion a new strategic framework beyond just missile defenses, a strategic framework that says we'll reduce our own offensive weapons, a strategic framework that says we'll cooperate on security matters, particularly as it relates to terrorist activities, a security relationship where we'll work for safer nuclear storage and safer nuclear energy. It is a different framework,

a different frame of mind that I truly believe will make the world a more peaceful place.

And since I feel it so strongly, if we can't reach an agreement, we're going to implement. It's the right thing to do. It's what I told the American people we're going to do. It's what I've explained to our Allies we're going to do.

But I believe we've got a great opportunity to welcome others into the strategic framework. You saw the President yesterday. I thought he was very forward-leaning, as they say in diplomatic nuanced circles. We signed an agreement. That should say something about the intentions and about how far we've progressed on this issue.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. I have to confirm the judgment on the President on this, and I can also bear witness to the fact that during the G-8 Summit, we spoke about this topic. In fact, in a bilateral meeting, I met President Putin and, with the invitation of the other Allies, I, in fact, spoke about the problem of the atomic potential in his country. I began expressing the preoccupation of the Western world vis-à-vis the nuclear stations in Russia, because here we're talking about the maintenance of the old ones and the building codes for new nuclear stations.

President Putin said that he would face this very openly. He spoke to us about their plans for these places, and he also said that he will continue to cooperate with Western technicians as far as the building codes of the new plants. And after that, we spoke, and I must say that I spoke to him directly on the atomic potential. But here I would like to digress.

We also have to understand the physiological aspect for the President and for his people. They come from a past. They were a world power. They had a very strong fall, as far as their economy was concerned. Their global revenue is well below the other countries of the G-7, but they still have that old pride. And above all, they have that atomic stockpile that is still an extraordinary one. It's huge. Therefore, we must be very tactful.

We must take the entire situation into account, the psychological and actual situation.

We must proceed with patience on a road, which is the one expressed by President Bush, that cannot be hurried on. But the reactions that we saw from President Putin make us believe that we will be able to cooperate. And I think that we're on the right path in order to reach an agreement that would obviously imply certain modifications in the existing treaty. And I believe that this can all be done without unilateral measures.

On the other hand, President Bush also confirmed the will of the United States of America to talk with the Allies, to not do anything without having a discussion with the Allies first. So I believe that this is an issue that has been well placed and is on the right path.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 14th news conference began at 2:52 p.m. at the Villa Dona Pamphilj. In his remarks, he referred to former President Abdurrahman Wahid and President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and Pope John Paul II. Prime Minister Berlusconi referred to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; President Jacques Chirac of France; and President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi of Italy. Prime Minister Berlusconi spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process

July 23, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt

the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 23, 2001.

Remarks to United States Troops at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo July 24, 2001

Thank you all very much. It's always a proud moment for the Commander in Chief to see the troops who uphold the values of our country. Especially here, seeing in a foreign land, brings home the true meaning of the sacrifices you make for our freedom.

Thank you, General David, for your kind introduction and your hospitality. Laura and I are honored to be here. I also want to recognize the leadership of the Senior NCO Command Sergeant, Major Marvin Hill. [*Applause*]

I want to know what you did, Marvin. [*Laughter*] You got some of the folks kind of excited when I mentioned your name.

We're honored to be here. I realize that on July 4, you had the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders. I recognize I don't look quite as pretty, but I am from Texas. And I'm proud to be an American, and I know you are, as well, because we represent a great land, a great land.

I'm also looking forward to having a lunch with some of you in a while. The general mentioned that I like PT—I'm going to eat lightly because I look forward to leading a run up Radar Hill after lunch. Are you ready to go? [*Applause*]

I want you to know that there's no higher honor than to serve as your Commander in Chief. America appreciates your service and sacrifices for our country. And I'm here to tell you that.

It's good to be here with the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne. You just lived up to your name. [*Laughter*] I also want to thank the members of the United States Army Reserve, the Air Force, the Navy, and Marine Corps and the National Guard units from Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Ten-

nessee. I thank the civilians and contractors who helped build this base.

My first opportunity as President to address America's military forces came at Fort Stewart, Georgia. It's great to be back with the "dog-faced soldiers" of the 3d Infantry. I think I'll repeat what I said there—Hooah!

And finally, I want to thank all our allies who join in this mission: Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. It's a long list. It speaks volumes about why you are so good at your mission. You come from many nations, many cultures, and many continents—just like amongst the U.S. military personnel, many races and many faiths, many traditions represented.

Your diversity and close cooperation, General, in the cause of peace is an example of the people of this region. And it's a rebuke to the ethnic intolerance and narrow nationalism that brought us here in the first place.

As we head into the 21st century, we must not allow difference to be a license to kill and vulnerability an excuse to dominate. We will pursue a world of tolerance and freedom. From Kosovo to Kashmir, from the Middle East to Northern Ireland, freedom and tolerance is a defining issue for our world, and your service here has set an example for the whole world to see.

We're making good progress. Thanks to you and those who served before you, the people of Kosovo are able to buy food and find shelter, go to school and get medical help. Thanks to you, there will be elections here in November, elections where we want to see the widest possible participation. Thanks to you, there are fewer arms flowing into Macedonia and a hope for peace in that land. Thanks to you and the service of our forces throughout the Balkans, the region is growing closer to the rest of Europe. But there's still a lot of work to do.

Civil institutions must be put in place and made stronger. Organized crime must be brought under control. War criminals must face justice. And Kosovo must not be a safe haven for insurgencies elsewhere.

America has a vital interest in the European stability and, therefore, peace in the region. That's why I've recently taken steps to

cut off outside support for the rebels in Macedonia. That's why we need you to keep patrolling the border and cutting off the arms flow.

Each and every day your work is important to people of this region and for peace that NATO is committed to building here. America and allied forces came into Bosnia and Kosovo. We came in together, and we will leave together. Our goal is to hasten the day when peace is self-sustaining, when local democratically elected authorities can assume full responsibility, and when NATO forces can go home.

As well, you not only need to have a clear mission here, but you need to have a Commander in Chief with a clear vision, who sets clear goals for our military. And those goals are to be well equipped and well trained, to be able to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

I know how hard frequent deployments are on you and your families. I know that America owes you a decent quality of life. And those who wear America's uniform deserve America's full support, and you've got it.

I'm going to do something unusual here. I brought with me a piece of legislation, a supplemental spending bill to this year's defense budget. It's been passed by the House, passed by the Senate. Differences were reconciled. So I'm going to sign it here, because it contains \$1.9 billion for pay, benefits, and health care. And by the way, the tax cut is real, too.

I'm also pleased that next year's defense budget request includes an additional 2.2 billion for pay and benefits, beyond the supplemental I'm signing here today. And that will include housing as well as an additional 2.3 billion for improved health care. And it's important for the Congress to hear this message. It's important for Congress to start dealing with next year's defense budget now, to not only include the request we made initially but the amendment to the defense bill.

The Congress has got to keep in mind the needs of those who wear the uniform. And I expect quick response from the Members of the United States Congress. When I ran for promise—I promised America that help

is on the way for the men and women who wear our uniform. Today I'm proud to say, help is arriving. I'm committed that America does a better job of supporting you all.

For every one of you has dedicated yourself to something greater than yourself. You put your country ahead of your comfort. You've committed your lives to defending our Nation's highest ideals. And thanks to you, the march of freedom continues around the world.

It's an honor to be here. It's a huge honor to be the Commander in Chief. Thank you for your service to a great country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:08 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. William David, USA, Commander, Task Force Falcon. H.R. 2216, approved July 24, was assigned Public Law No. 107-20.

Statement on Signing the Supplemental Appropriations Act, FY 2001

July 24, 2001

Today I signed into law H.R. 2216, the "Supplemental Appropriations Act, FY 2001," which provides funding for the Department of Defense and other departments.

This important supplemental appropriation provides urgently needed resources to enhance defense readiness and operations and maintenance; to improve the morale of our service men and service women, and their families; to provide needed home energy assistance for low-income families; to aid victims of radiation exposures associated with the Government's nuclear weapons testing program; to provide a U.S. contribution for the global trust fund to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis; and for other purposes.

I commend the Congress for expeditiously providing critical resources needed to improve our support for our men and women in the military while maintaining a strict fiscal discipline. The Congress provided this additional funding within the budget agreement's discretionary spending limits. The resources I requested for the Department of Defense will help our military readiness and help lay the groundwork for further strengthening

after Secretary Rumsfeld's ongoing strategy review.

I applaud the Congress for passing this bill without resorting to the abusive use of the emergency designation. We have seen "emergencies" become a recurring part of the budget process, and become magnets for special-interest, non-essential spending.

I will continue to work with the Congress and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to see that FEMA meets its obligations to perform its extremely important role of disaster relief in a thorough and timely manner.

I hope the bipartisan approval of this bill is a harbinger of improved, more orderly deliberations for the remainder of the FY 2002 appropriations process. The fiscal discipline demonstrated in this Supplemental Appropriations Act, developed with collegiality and in a timely manner, sets a standard for how the Congress should handle spending bills for the next fiscal year.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 24, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2216, approved July 24, was assigned Public Law No. 107-20.

Statement on the Balkans

July 24, 2001

Last month in Warsaw, I spoke about the importance of building a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace. I said that this new Europe must include the Balkans. A few years ago, that vision would have seemed fanciful. Today as I meet here with our forces at Camp Bondsteel, that vision is within our reach.

Croatia has become a responsible source of regional stability. The people of Yugoslavia have chosen democracy over dictatorship and have sent their former dictator to The Hague. Albania's recent elections, while less than perfect, were still a step forward in its democratic development. There are moderate governments in Bosnia-Herzegovina willing to work as serious partners with the international community in preparing their country for European integration. For the

first time in history, all the governments of the region are democratic, committed to cooperating with each other, and predisposed to joining Europe.

But difficult challenges remain. Civil institutions are weak and vulnerable to corruption. Organized crime is widespread, sometimes hiding behind narrow, nationalistic agendas. There is too much dependence on foreign assistance and not enough foreign investment. And ethnic extremists are still stoking the flames of intolerance and inciting violence, hoping to subvert democracy, redraw borders, or advance criminal pursuits.

The greatest challenge today is in Macedonia, where armed insurgents threaten peace and stability. Some here in Kosovo are trying to help the insurgents. Let me be clear: The United States stands against all who use or support violence against democracy and the rule of law. That's why American forces in Kosovo are interdicting the flow of arms into Macedonia. And that's why I imposed sanctions against individuals and organizations assisting the insurgents. The United States, EU, and NATO strongly back ongoing efforts to find a political settlement—one that addresses the legitimate grievances of the Albanian population while protecting Macedonia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, its political unity, and its democratic future. I call on all parties to maintain the cease-fire. And I call on the elected leaders to work with EU envoy Leotard and Ambassador Pardew to overcome the remaining differences to achieving a settlement that will keep Macedonia at peace and on the road to Europe.

Those here in Kosovo who support the insurgency in Macedonia are hurting the interests of ethnic Albanians throughout the region. The people of Kosovo should focus on Kosovo. They need to concentrate on developing civil institutions that work and a political climate that supports and sustains democracy, the rule of law, ethnic tolerance, and cooperation with neighbors. November's election will be an important step in that direction. We call on all people of Kosovo to participate, so that no one is denied the benefits of democracy. As the people and countries of the Balkans move closer to Europe,

it is only natural that Europe assume increasing leadership and responsibility. I welcome the European Union's commitment to play a leading role in the stabilization and development of the region. I similarly welcome the willingness of our Allies to provide the bulk of the NATO task force poised to collect the insurgents' weapons after a peaceful settlement in Macedonia. The cooperation of the United States, NATO, and the EU in Macedonia is a model that we can build upon in the future.

More than 30 countries—NATO Allies, NATO partners, and other friends—are, together with America, providing forces here in Kosovo. We understand that America's contribution is essential, both militarily and politically. We will not draw down our forces in Bosnia or Kosovo precipitously or unilaterally. We came in together, and we will go out together. But our goal is to hasten the day when peace is self-sustaining, when local, democratically elected authorities can assume full responsibility, and when NATO's forces can go home. This means that we must reorganize and reenergize our efforts to build civil institutions and promote rule of law. It also means that we must step up our efforts to transfer responsibilities for public security from combat forces to specialized units, international police, and ultimately local authorities. NATO's commitment to the peace of this region is enduring, but the stationing of our forces here should not be indefinite.

The American soldiers here at Camp Bondsteel—and at bases and on patrol elsewhere in Kosovo and in Bosnia—symbolize America's commitment to building the better, broader, more peaceful Europe that is within our grasp. We are very proud of our soldiers and of the American diplomats and civil police who work alongside them. Together with our Allies and friends and the people of the Balkans, we are confident that we will reach this common goal.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of Military Forces for Stabilization of Areas of the Former Yugoslavia

July 24, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress of January 25, 2001, I provided information on the deployment of combat-equipped U.S. Armed Forces to Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region in order to participate in and support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Stabilization Force (SFOR). The SFOR began its mission and assumed authority from the NATO-led implementation force on December 20, 1996. I am providing this supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

The U.N. Security Council authorized Member States to continue SFOR for a period of 12 months in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1357 of June 21, 2001. The mission of SFOR is to provide a focused military presence in order to deter hostilities, stabilize and consolidate the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contribute to a secure environment, and provide, within its means and capabilities, selective support to key areas and key civil implementation organizations.

The U.S. force contribution to SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina is approximately 3,800 personnel. United States personnel comprise just under 20 percent of the total SFOR force of approximately 19,500 personnel. During the first half of 2001, 19 NATO nations and 17 others, including Russia, provided military personnel or other support to SFOR. Most U.S. forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina are assigned to Multinational Division, North, centered in the city of Tuzla. Other U.S. military personnel are deployed to other countries in the region in

support of SFOR. This includes approximately 500 U.S. military personnel presently deployed to Hungary, Croatia, and Italy in order to provide logistical and other support. The U.S. forces continue to support SFOR efforts to apprehend persons indicted for war crimes. In the last 6 months, U.S. forces have not sustained any combat-related fatalities.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed about developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region. I will continue to consult closely with the Congress regarding our efforts to foster peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia. Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 25.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

July 25, 2001

The President. It's my honor to welcome to the White House Members from the Senate and the House, Members who are concerned about American foreign policy, to give them a briefing about my trip to Europe.

I'm going to talk about how we agreed that we need to expand trade, how we also agreed how we need to help nations who are less fortunate than our Nation. I look forward to having a very confidential briefing about my meeting with President Putin and the hope and promise I see for a constructive relationship.

I also am aware that there are some foreign policy matters in the Congress. And I urge Congress to deal fairly with Mexico and to not treat the Mexican truck industry in an unfair fashion, that I believe strongly we can

have safety measures in place that will make sure our highways are safe. But we should not single out Mexico. Mexico is our close friend and ally, and we must treat them with respect and uphold NAFTA and the spirit of NAFTA.

I also fully understand that foreign policy is best when conducted in a bipartisan fashion, and I so very much appreciate the chairman, I spoke to the chairman—both chairmen—before my trip overseas this time and before my trip last time overseas. And I take their advice very seriously and counsel very seriously. It helps for us to continue to communicate, particularly when it comes to foreign policy.

So thank you all for coming. I'll be glad to answer maybe one or two questions.

Patients' Bill of Rights

Q. Mr. President, on the Patients' Bill of Rights there is some talk that the House Republicans are now planning to schedule a vote later, perhaps as late as September. Is that a recognition on the part of the party and its leadership that you don't have the votes to get what you want on that issue?

The President. I am hopeful we'll get a bill I can sign. And I appreciate so very much the hard work that's going on, particularly now in the House of Representatives, to bring a bill that is fair to patients. There seems to be a—there was a lot of negotiations going on when I was gone, and there still seems to be a lot of talk. And obviously, we'd like to get this bill finished and on my desk and a bill I can sign.

I laid out the principles that would allow me to sign a bill, and I still stand by those principles. But I can report we're making pretty good progress, it seems like.

Yes, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Oil Prices

Q. Mr. President, OPEC is about to cut production by a million barrels a day. What is that going to do to the already struggling economy?

The President. Steve, it is very important for there to be stability in a marketplace. I read some comments from the OPEC ministers who said this was just a matter to make

sure the market remains stable and predictable. Obviously, if it's an attempt to run the price of oil up, we'll make our opinions very clear and known, that that would hurt America and hurt the marketplace. Our economy is bumping along right now and a runup in energy prices would hurt. And surely, the OPEC leaders understand that. I think they do.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7457—National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, 2001

July 25, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The sounds of war thundered as a furious struggle took place 51 years ago in a country unknown to many Americans. The battleground that was Korea in the years 1950 to 1953 tested the resolve, courage, and commitment of an America barely 5 years beyond the tremendous sacrifices of World War II. Undaunted, America again marshaled her forces to defend a population facing tyranny and aggression.

Freedom for the Republic of Korea was purchased with deep sacrifice and with honor. In 38 months of intense fighting, 33,665 Americans gave their lives in battle. Our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor, was awarded to 131 members of the U.S. Armed Forces, more than 90 of them posthumously. Yet the challenge of Korea was not just a formidable adversary, but also a harsh and forbidding climate. The 1.8 million service men and women who served there suffered bitter winters that would claim casualties approaching those inflicted by guns, shrapnel, and bayonets. When the Military Armistice Agreement, effective 48 years ago, silenced the guns on the Korean peninsula, it marked the end of

the world's first determined stand against Communist aggression. It signaled the beginning of the Cold War, and foreshadowed the eventual dismantling of global Communism.

Today, the liberties defended there half a century ago are the inheritance of 47 million citizens of a democratic, prosperous, and progressive Republic of Korea. The young Americans who fought and died there kept faith with a just cause, and in so doing, kept faith with the principles and ideals on which our Nation was founded. They immeasurably blessed the Republic of Korea and brought great honor to our Nation as a defender of freedom. Because of these truths, we recognize the Korean War for what it was and is—not a “forgotten war,” but a remembered victory.

The Congress, by passing Public Law 104–19 (36 U.S.C. 127), has designated July 27, 2001, as “National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day” and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 27, 2001, as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor and give thanks to our distinguished Korean War veterans. I also ask Federal departments and agencies and interested groups, organizations, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff on July 27, 2001, in memory of the Americans who died as a result of their service in Korea.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., July 27, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 30.

**Memorandum on the Charter for
Coordinator of United States
Assistance to Europe and Eurasia**

July 25, 2001

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive
Departments and Agencies*

Subject: Charter for Coordinator of U.S.
Assistance to Europe and Eurasia

The United States has a vital stake in a stable and secure Europe and Eurasia. Maintaining effective support for the expanding free market and promoting the democratic transformation of the formerly Communist societies of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union remain among our highest foreign policy priorities. Over the past decade, bilateral assistance programs under the “Support for East European Democracies (SEED) Act” of 1989 and the “Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets (FREEDOM) Support Act” of 1992 have played an important role in advancing democratic and economic reforms in the formerly Communist countries of the region. Other projects funded through legislation, such as the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993, have advanced our denuclearization and nonproliferation objectives.

Despite remarkable progress in many countries, the ultimate success of reform efforts across the region is by no means assured. This fact, combined with budget realities that constrain the level of funding for our bilateral assistance to the region, makes it imperative that our assistance be as targeted, relevant, and efficient as possible.

To achieve maximum coordination of efforts that promote such reforms and policies within the executive branch, I hereby designate Ambassador William B. Taylor, Jr., to serve as the SEED Program Coordinator, in accordance with section 601 of the SEED Act, and to continue serving as Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to the Newly Independent States (NIS), in accordance with section 102 of the FREEDOM Support Act.

Ambassador Taylor’s responsibilities will include:

1. designing an overall assistance strategy for each SEED and FREEDOM Support Act country;
2. overseeing program and policy coordination among United States Government agencies;
3. pursuing coordination with other countries and international organizations;
4. ensuring proper management and oversight by agencies responsible for implementation of assistance programs; and
5. resolving policy and program disputes among United States Government agencies.

Ambassador Taylor will also act as Chairman of the Assistance Working Group of the interagency Europe-Eurasia Policy Coordinating Committee.

In fulfilling these duties, Ambassador Taylor will preside over the allocation of U.S. assistance resources. He will direct and coordinate the interagency process of development, funding, and implementation of all United States Government bilateral assistance, trade, and investment programs related to the SEED and FREEDOM Support Act countries.

To enable Ambassador Taylor to carry out these responsibilities effectively, the Departments of Defense, the Treasury, Justice, State, Commerce, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Energy; the Agency for International Development, U.S. Customs Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Peace Corps, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Trade and Development Agency, Export-Import Bank, and all other executive departments and agencies with activities related to bilateral assistance and export and investment activities in the SEED and FREEDOM Support Act countries are directed, to the extent permitted by law, to bring all programs and budget plans for such assistance and activities to Ambassador Taylor for review before submission to the Office of Management and Budget, and before implementation. Ambassador Taylor

shall ensure that all such plans are consistent with Administration priorities and policies. Heads of such entities shall designate an appropriate official to assist Ambassador Taylor in accomplishing the objectives of this mandate.

Ambassador Taylor will work with the U.S. Ambassadors to the SEED and FREEDOM Support Act countries to strengthen coordination mechanisms in the field and increase the effectiveness of our assistance and export and investment programs on the ground. Assistance activities in the field will be coordinated by Ambassadors or their designate.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 26.

Remarks on Signing Legislation Honoring Senator Paul Coverdell

July 26, 2001

Ours is a city here full of memorials, full of symbols of America's gratitude for service. And today we come together to honor one such man who dedicated his life to service, a life who left us far too soon.

Nancy, welcome. I want to thank you and your family members for being here. I want to thank Trent and Members of the United States Senate. One reason he didn't ask you to speak is, he was afraid you were going to go on too long, Phil. *[Laughter]* I appreciate Senator Miller. I thank the Georgia delegation for coming, Members of the Congress. It's good to see the former Speaker; thank you for being here, as well.

I appreciate John Ashcroft, the Attorney General, for being here, and Elaine Chao, members of my Cabinet. I'm so honored that members—former Directors of the Peace Corps are here, including the current Acting Director, Chuck Baquet. Thank you for being here, as well. I thank Michael Adams, the president of the University of Georgia, for being here. And I want to thank my Ambassador-designee to the Vatican, Jim Nicholson, for being here, as well.

Paul Coverdell was a man of unusual abilities and striking character. He spoke with candor when others might hide the unpleas-

ant truth. He was wise and reasonable in a city that often lacks both virtues. He was a man of principle who understood our political system's essential need for compromise. He was respected by both allies and adversaries.

And the causes to which he dedicated himself drew all his energy and thought and effort and commitment. He understood every parent's hopes for a quality education, so he pressed for tax-free savings accounts for education expenses. Today his idea is law. And today we rename those accounts for him, the Coverdell Education Savings Accounts.

He had a great heart and compassion for others, and that could be seen in his imaginative and strong leadership of the Peace Corps. As the Corps' first post-cold-war Director, he had a vision for a new era and the leadership to bring those dreams into being. So today, in his honor, we rename the Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, DC, the Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters. And we also rename the Peace Corps World Wise School program, the Paul D. Coverdell World Wise Schools programs.

Paul was a champion of science and medical research. Wherever Americans push the frontiers of knowledge, they're advancing in the spirit of Paul Coverdell. And so, I applaud Senator Miller for his leadership in the decision to name the University of Georgia's new health science building for Paul.

You know, Paul and Nancy were frequent visitors to my folks' house in Maine. They were such good friends that Mother got them to plant roses. She's a pretty tough taskmaster. *[Laughter]* You can imagine old Paul out there digging away, mother yelling, "More dirt!" *[Laughter]* The hole would be dug and Mother saying, "You put the rosebush in there." At any rate, we get to now see the roses, and we think of Paul. The flowers bloom only a short time, but like the roots of those bushes, his memory lasts a long time. And the fruits of his labors, we will see for a long time coming.

I've spoken today of honoring Paul. The truth is, he honored us by his selfless service. We're lucky to have known him.

It is now my honor to sign the bills honoring a great man.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:14 a.m. in the Indian Treaty Room in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Nancy Coverdell, widow of Senator Coverdell; Senator Phil Gramm of Texas; and former Speaker Newt Gingrich. S. 360 and S. 1190, approved July 26, were assigned Public Law Nos. 107–21 and 107–22, respectively.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Virginia Gubernatorial Candidate Mark Earley and an Exchange With Reporters

July 26, 2001

The President. It's my honor to welcome the next Governor of Virginia to the Oval Office. This man is going to win because he knows a couple of truths: One, that it's important to let people keep their own money—I appreciate your strong stance on holding the line on cutting the car tax in Virginia—and secondly, he has prioritized education, and he knows full well that if you have a Governor who knows how to lead, you can set clear spending priorities. And so I believe Mark has got the right issues, the right vision, and the right skill to be a great Governor for Virginia.

Secondly, here in Washington, we're making progress on some key issues. I've been meeting with Members of the Congress on the Patients' Bill of Rights; I will continue to do so throughout the day. Secondly, I had a very good visit with Senator Lieberman and Senator Santorum on the faith-based initiative, a positive discussion about how to get the bill fashioned so it moves through the Senate, and then, of course, be combined with the House version.

The Members agree—at least, the two Members that came to see me agree with how important this initiative is. It's important to set aside politics and focus on helping people. And the faith-based initiative does that. And again, I want to repeat how appreciative I am that Senator Lieberman and Senator Santorum took time out of their day to come and visit.

Soon-to-be-Governor Earley is going to say a few remarks. I'll answer a couple of questions afterwards.

[At this point, Mr. Earley made brief remarks.]

The President. Thanks, Mark. You're going to win.

Yes, Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News].

China's Release of American University Scholars

Q. Mr. President, why do you think China agreed, finally, to release the two scholars? And, to you, what does it say about the relationship between the U.S. and China?

The President. Well, I would hope that part of it is because of the pressure our Government has put on China. I spoke directly to Jiang Zemin on this very subject, about the humane treatment of U.S. citizens and/or legal residents. Perhaps China is beginning to realize that, as she begins to deal with Western nations, she's going to have to make better decisions on human rights.

Patients' Bill of Rights

Q. Are you not giving up on Patients' Bill of Rights being voted on before the August recess? And do you feel that your influence, especially with Republicans in the House, is diminished from what it was?

The President. I think we've had a pretty good 6 months, when you think about it. I've signed a lot of legislation. Today, for example, I signed the legislation naming the education savings accounts after Paul Coverdell. That's a piece of legislation that had languished in the past; it's now law.

I signed tax cuts. I signed some regulatory relief. I am very pleased with the cooperative spirit in the Congress. And I do believe that we can get a good Patients' Bill of Rights. I think the Members of Congress have taken me seriously when I said there is a—I want a bill.

But there are some things that are unacceptable to me. And the most unacceptable thing to me is that there be a piece of legislation that encourages lawsuits and discourages American citizens from being able to afford health insurance. I am deeply worried about any legislation that will cause people to have less health insurance. I refuse to accept that legislation.

Now, having said that, I've been in some serious discussions today. We're trying to find some common ground on getting a bill that I can sign, and I believe we're making progress.

Yes, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Situation in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, Iraq tried to knock down a U-2 plane today. Do you fear that they have enhanced their ability to knock out allied planes, and what can you do about it?

The President. Well, we're going to keep the pressure on Iraq. The no-fly zone strategy is still in place. We are in—plus, I'm analyzing the data from the incident you talked about. I look forward to finding out all the facts. But there's no question that Saddam Hussein is still a menace and a problem. And the United States and our allies must put the pressure on him.

That's why I brought up to Mr. Putin in Genoa, the need for us to work in concert at the United Nations, to make sure that we have a sanction policy that will work.

Faith-Based Initiative

Q. The sanction Lieberman mentioned today—there's some outright opposition to faith-based, and he thought that could be eased, and some other people said that could be eased if there's some change in the language on discrimination. Is that something that you would consider doing to get the faith-based through?

The President. Well, we're going to work with the Senate to get a good bill out. There are some other concerns that he brought up, and I told him we'd be willing to work with him, without compromising on principle. He understood that. He and I share the same principle about the need to rally faith-based organizations in our community.

And one of the principles is, we should never undermine the civil rights laws of the United States. And I believe it's very important that the civil right—the whole spirit and law of the civil rights legislation be intact.

Immigration

Q. Mr. President, on the immigration proposal that you're weighing, sir, is there some reason that only Mexican workers should be

considered? What about those from other countries?

The President. Well, we'll consider all folks here. Let me make this very clear to people, that there was—a word was creeping in the vernacular about this issue, called amnesty. I oppose blanket amnesty. The American people need to know that. I do believe, though, that when we find willing employer and willing employee, we ought to match the two. We ought to make it easier for people who want to employ somebody, who are looking for workers, to be able to hire people who want to work.

And I know we can do so in a humane way that treats people with respect. Obviously, the Mexican issue is at the forefront because we're preparing for my first state visit with my friend Vicente Fox. But I'm openminded. I'll listen to all proposals that people have in mind.

Let me make another point on Mexico. It is wrong for the Congress to discriminate against Mexican trucks. And I urge the Senate to reject an amendment to the transportation bill that would clearly discriminate against Mexican truckers. Our Mexican counterparts and friends need to be treated just like the Canadians are treated. We ought to accept the spirit of NAFTA.

And so whether it be people or trucks or businesses, I solidly reject discrimination against people who are here, of all origins, particularly Mexico. And the reason why Mexico's on the front burner, as far as the immigration issue, of course, is because of the initiative that Vicente Fox and I outlined, an initiative that encourages discussions, headed up by—it's Colin Powell and John Ashcroft and their counterparts—and by the way, an initiative that is making good progress on making sure relations with our neighbor to the south are strong and cohesive and there's a strategy that works and respectful. And we're making good progress, and the American people ought to be proud of that.

Assistant Press Secretary Johndroe. Thank you all.

Oval Office

Q. New furnishings?

The President. Yes, they are. Thank you for noticing. The couches—Mrs. Bush deserves a lot of credit.

Q. The rug?

The President. No, the rug is temporary. The rug will have the—we're in the process of weaving a new rug. And each President, as you probably know, since you've been around here some—well, a long time—each President designs his own rug. I've designed mine, and it's now being woven and will be here in about 3 months. And I look forward to—

Q. The Alamo up on the wall is not an indication of how you feel in the White House right now, is it?

The President. I feel great. Listen, I think we've had one of the most constructive first 6 months of any Presidency, and we're making great progress on a lot of issues. No, I've always—a dictatorship would be a heck of a lot easier; there's no question about it. But dealing with Congress is a matter of give and take. The President doesn't get everything he wants; the Congress doesn't get everything they want. But we're finding good common ground.

And I also want to remind you all, we're making great progress when it comes to fiscal sanity and the budget. I appreciate so very much the supplemental that got passed. I signed it in Kosovo. It was a supplemental that came out clean. And I thank the leadership in the Senate, particularly Senator Byrd, as well as those in the House—Congressman Young—for moving a clean supplemental. That was unheard of in recent history.

There's going to be some struggles over the budget, no question about it, as appropriators perhaps try to bust the budget. But they're going to find somebody who's going to hang tough on the budget. And I want to remind people that the reason some are struggling to find money to spend is because the economy has turned down. That's why. The budget projections are less than anticipated because of a slowdown in the economy. And by cutting taxes, we did the right thing to reinvigorate the economy. And do you know who knows that best? The American people.

Thank you for coming.

News Conference With Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy

Q. You're not a dictator, but you are a conqueror. [Laughter]

The President. Well, I just hope it reflected in the stories. Actually, did you know that the guy, when questioned, the interpreter misinterpreted what he said. He said that it was clear to the American press that President Bush conquered the leaders, as opposed to conquering the American press. No one conquers the American press, of course. [Laughter]

Assistant Press Secretary Johndroe. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:23 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Jiang Zemin of China; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Mr. Earley. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to Navajo Code Talkers

July 26, 2001

Thank you very much. Today America honors 29 Native Americans who, in a desperate hour, gave their country a service only they could give. In war, using their native language, they relayed secret messages that turned the course of battle. At home, they carried for decades the secret of their own heroism. Today we give these exceptional marines the recognition they earned so long ago.

I want to thank the Congress for inviting me here, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Senators Campbell, Bingaman, and Johnson and Congressman Udall for their leadership. I want to thank Sergeant Major McMichael—distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Washington, DC.

The gentlemen with us, John Brown, Chester Nez, Lloyd Oliver, Allen Dale June, and Joe Palmer, represented by his son Kermit, are the last of the original Navajo Code Talkers. In presenting gold medals to

each of them, the Congress recognizes their individual service, bravely offered and flawlessly performed.

With silver medals, we also honor the dozens more who served later with the same courage and distinction. And with all these honors, America pays tribute to the tradition and community that produced such men, the great Navajo Nation. The paintings in this rotunda tell of America and its rise as a nation. Among them are images of the first Europeans to reach the coast and the first explorer to come upon the Mississippi. But before all these firsts on this continent, there were the first people. They are depicted in the background as if extras in the story. Yet, their own presence here in America predates all human record. Before others arrived, the story was theirs alone.

Today we mark a moment of shared history and shared victory. We recall a story that all Americans can celebrate and every American should know. It is a story of ancient people called to serve in a modern war. It is a story of one unbreakable oral code of the Second World War, messages traveling by field radio on Iwo Jima in the very language heard across the Colorado plateau centuries ago.

Above all, it's a story of young Navajos who brought honor to their Nation and victory to their country. Some of the Code Talkers were very young, like Albert Smith, who joined the Marines at 15. In order to enlist, he said, "I had to advance my age a little bit." At least one Code Talker was overage, so he claimed to be younger in order to serve. On active duty, their value was so great and their order so sensitive that they were closely guarded. By war's end, some 400 Navajos had served as Code Talkers; 13 were killed in action, and their names, too, are on today's roll of honor.

Regardless of circumstances, regardless of history, they came forward to serve America. The Navajo code itself provides a part of the reason. Late in his life, Albert Smith explained, "The code word for America was, 'Our Mother.' 'Our Mother' stood for freedom, our religion, our ways of life, and that's why we went in." The Code Talkers joined 44,000 Native Americans who wore the uniform in World War II. More than 12,000 Na-

tive Americans fought in World War I. Thousands more served in Korea, Vietnam, and serve to this very day.

Twenty-four Native Americans have earned the highest military distinction of all, the Medal of Honor, including Ernest Childers, who was my guest at the White House last week. In all these wars and conflicts, Native Americans have served with the modesty and strength and quiet valor their tradition has always inspired.

That tradition found full expression in the Code Talkers—in those absent and in those with us today. Gentlemen, your service inspires the respect and admiration of all Americans, and our gratitude is expressed for all time in the medals it is now my honor to present.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:41 p.m. in the rotunda at the U.S. Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Sgt. Maj. Alford McMichael, USMC, who represented the U.S. Marine Corps.

Statement on the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

July 26, 2001

Eleven years ago today, people from across America gathered to celebrate the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), one of the Nation's most important civil rights laws since the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The ADA opened up the true promise of America to people with disabilities who, for far too long, have found impediments to getting an education, getting a job, or just getting around.

I am proud that my father saw the need for a comprehensive law to liberate the energies and talents of people with disabilities, and who worked with the Congress to make the ADA a reality.

Much has been accomplished in the past 11 years. Attitudes are changing and barriers are coming down all across America. Employers now provide a range of "accommodations" to ensure that employees with disabilities can keep their place in the wage-earning world, resulting in unprecedented economic opportunities. And, outside of the workplace,

the promise of the ADA, coupled with the entrepreneurial spirit of the private sector, has enabled people with disabilities to enjoy much greater access to a wide range of affordable travel, recreational opportunities, and life-enriching services.

Because of the ADA, people with disabilities are gaining equal access to public sector services. And the public sector has rallied to the ADA's goals. From improving access at town halls and courthouses to providing accessible parking to assistive listening devices at public meetings, States and local governments have developed some of the most innovative and meaningful responses to the ADA. In addition, my Administration is committed to full and effective implementation of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which will help ensure that people of all abilities can access government information and online services. My Administration is working closely with State and local governments to move people with disabilities out of institutions and into community-based settings, going above and beyond the requirements of the Supreme Court's landmark *Olmstead* decision.

In fact, the message of the ADA is being heard all around the world. Over 40 countries, from Australia to Uganda, now have laws prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities—many of them inspired by the ADA.

Although we have accomplished much because of the ADA, our job is far from done. People with disabilities are far more likely than other Americans to drop out of high school or to suffer from poverty and unemployment. They are far less likely to own a home, to use a computer to explore the Internet, or to vote.

Earlier this year, I proposed the New Freedom Initiative. It is the next step in securing the promise of the ADA. The New Freedom Initiative will help ensure that Americans with disabilities can access the best technologies of today and even better technologies in the future. We will expand educational opportunities and accessible transportation and take steps to fully integrate people with disabilities into the workforce. We will expand housing opportunities and improve access to churches, mosques,

synagogues, and civic organizations. And we will fully enforce the ADA while working in partnership with businesses, States, and local governments to promote the highest possible degree of voluntary cooperation.

The Americans with Disabilities Act was an unprecedented step forward in promoting freedom, independence, and dignity for millions of our people. On this, the 11th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, I remain committed to tearing down the remaining barriers to equality that face Americans with disabilities today.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 26, 2001.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Memorandum on Funding for Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance

July 26, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–22

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as Amended

Pursuant to section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2601(c)(1), I hereby determine that it is important to the national interest that up to \$27 million be made available from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund to meet unexpected urgent refugee and migration needs, including those of refugees, displaced persons, conflict victims, and other persons at risk due to the situations in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, and Afghanistan. These funds may be used, as appropriate, to provide contributions to international, governmental, and nongovernmental organizations, and as necessary, for administrative expenses of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. Of the \$27 million hereby determined, not more than \$5 million shall be reserved on a contingency basis in order to allow for

immediate United States response to unexpected urgent refugee and migration needs.

You are authorized and directed to inform the appropriate committees of the Congress of this determination and the obligation of funds under this authority, and to arrange for the publication of this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on
Plan Colombia**

July 26, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 3204(e) of Public Law 106-246, I hereby transmit a report detailing the progress of spending by the executive branch during the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2001 in support of Plan Colombia.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 26, 2001.

**Remarks to the National Future
Farmers of America Organization**

July 27, 2001

Well, thank you all for coming. I look forward to discussing an incredibly important topic, and that's agriculture and what it means to America. It's important for folks up here in Washington to listen to Senators like Chuck Grassley and Blanche Lincoln, people who come from the farm areas, Phil Crane, who understand that agriculture is an incredibly important part of our economic future. But agriculture also is an important part of American life, because it represents the great values of America.

So I want to thank you all for coming. My fellow Texan, I appreciate that fine introduction. [Laughter] Trent's from Throckmorton. It's a rural part of our State. But rural Texas is incredibly a part of the State of Texas, but rural America is an incredibly important part of America, as well, and we must never forget that.

I want to thank Jennifer Edwards, as well, for being here. I want to thank all the officers for coming. I want to thank again the Members of Congress for being here to discuss with all of us how we make sure American agriculture thrives as we head into the 21st century. I mean, after all, we're talking about national security. It's important for our Nation to be able to grow foodstuffs to feed our people. Can you imagine a country that was unable to grow enough food to feed the people? It would be a nation that would be subject to international pressure. It would be a nation at risk. And so when we're talking about American agriculture, we're really talking about a national security issue.

Well, one way we can help is something we've already done, and that is to eliminate the death tax, so that farms and ranches can be passed from one generation to the next, so that people don't have to liquidate their prized possession, their most singular important asset, in order for a young son or daughter to become a farmer or a rancher. And we did just that, thanks to the Members of the United States Senate here and thanks to the Member of the Congress who are here. It was a tough vote for some, but it was the right vote for American agriculture, to get rid of the death tax.

And given the economic news of the day, the tax cut was—looks more and more wise. I mean, after all, there's a new report out that shows that over the last four quarters, economic growth has been slow. It hasn't been up to standard. The economy is puttering along. It's not nearly as strong as it should be. And what the tax cut does—by sending money back to the American working people, it provides an incredibly important boost to economic vitality and economic growth.

Now, there's a lot of talk about the amount of money available to spend here in Washington. Make no mistake about it: The appropriators are looking for money. And it may not be as much as they want to spend, because the economy has slowed down. And this tax cut is incredibly important for revitalizing the economy of America, and it was the right thing to do.

A second thing we can do to make sure folks in the agricultural sector have got a

bright future is to work to enhance trade, trade all around the world. I want America's farmers and ranchers feeding those who are hungry, those who need foodstuffs. We're the best in the world at growing product. Our farmers and ranchers are not only some of the hardest working people in the world, but we're better at it than everybody else is, too. And therefore, we ought to work hard to open up all avenues, all markets, so we can feed people.

And that includes—necessary to do that, we've got to make sure the President has what's called trade promotion authority. That gives me the ability to negotiate trade agreements on behalf of the American people, submit it to the Senate to be ratified, up or down.

I don't have that authority. It lapsed, unfortunately. I'm one of the few Presidents never to have had that authority. I'm asking Congress to give it to me for the good of the American people, for the good of the agricultural sector, so that I can use my efforts to knock down the trade barriers, the protectionist tendencies around the world that prevent our products from getting into markets.

I'm pleased to report, for example, that we are making some progress. There was a big debate—I'm sure you heard about it—as to whether or not China ought to be allowed into what's called the World Trade Organization. I argued vociferously that they should be, because I believe a country that trades with the rest of the world is a country more likely to embrace freedom.

I also know that by opening up Chinese markets to American foodstuffs, it will be beneficial to American farmers. And my Trade Representative, our Nation's Trade Representative, Robert Zoellick, has made great progress in negotiations with China, opening up their markets to U.S. foodstuffs, to our products.

I used to say, during the debate, to try to make it clear to people where I was coming from—maybe it's the west Texan in me—I said, "We want to be feeding the Chinese. We want our American farmers to be growing the products that the Chinese use to eat." And that's what, to me, trade means.

And so, we need to work with Congress to get a trade promotion authority bill out

pretty darn quickly. And my pledge to the people of America, particularly in the agricultural sector is, American agriculture will not be viewed as a secondary issue for me.

There's a lot of folks out there who are somewhat skeptical when a U.S. President talks about trade and agriculture. You know why? Because agriculture has always been a secondary issue. They'll negotiate all the other important subjects, but when it comes to agriculture, say, "We'll just leave it the way it is. We won't work to knock down the barriers that prevent U.S. products from going into other markets." Those days are over with. Agriculture will be the cornerstone of our international trade negotiations. We'll use what's called single undertaking negotiation to keep agriculture at the forefront of our negotiating policy, and the reason is simple: We're good at it, and we ought to work hard to promote products that we're good at growing or good at raising.

Another important part of making sure that your future is bright is that the education systems all around America work. One of the things I took great pride in, in the State of Texas, is an education reform package for all of the people that go to school in Texas that said, "We expect results." I will tell you this: If you're in the agricultural sector, you're judged by results. You're judged by the size of the crop you grow. You're judged whether or not you can plow the straight line. You're judged by whether you're not any good. It's a results-oriented world, and that's what education ought to be, as well.

And there's a fundamental reason why: Because we don't want anybody left behind, is why. And if you don't measure, how do you know whether somebody is being left behind? If you don't hold people accountable for results, how do you know whether or not some children cannot read or write and add and subtract? And I darn sure want to know.

Laura, my wife, the First Lady, is having a seminar, series of seminars about how to introduce the sound science of education into curriculum all around the country. It says, "Look, let's have some common sense about our education curriculum. Let's make sure it works before we insist that we use

it.” And that’s what we need to do in education. We need to have strong accountability.

Again, I want to thank the Members of the Senate and the House who are here, who support an education package that’s going to reform schools all around the country. But make no mistake about it: I haven’t forgotten where I came from. Inherent in the education reform package is a strong belief in local control of schools. I don’t think the schools ought to be run out of Washington. You know why? Because we’re different. School districts in Texas were different. And they’re a heck of a lot different, I can assure you, from, you know, places like Vermont and New Hampshire. I mean, it’s just a different world, and therefore we’ve got to have strong local control of schools, coupled with strong accountability, to make sure our education systems work for everybody, urban and rural alike.

And finally, before I come out and shake a few hands, if you would like to, I do want to remind you all that one of the things that makes this country so unique is our values system, the values of hard work, family, faith, values that sound pretty much like the heartland of America to me.

We’re winding down the legislative session here, and I hope, a week from tomorrow, the Congress takes off and gives all of us a break. *[Laughter]* And I’m heading back to the heartland. I’m going back to Crawford, Texas, where Laura and I have got some property. A fellow runs some cows on our country. I love to go walking out there, seeing the cows. Occasionally, they talk to me—*[laughter]*—being the good listener that I am. *[Laughter]* But it’s important for all of us in Washington to stay in touch with the values of the heartland, because they’re values that really are unique. It basically says that values—a value system of basic, inherent values that override politics and different demographics and different religions—it’s what makes America so unique and great.

I’ve just come back from overseas. I’m so proud to represent this great Nation overseas, because we’re a nation that can bring people from all walks of life together, a nation that says, “You’re free to worship any religion you want,” and yet we’re bound by

common values. You should never be afraid of embracing the values you find in the heartland of America, the values you bring to Washington, DC; you should never walk away from those. They’re important. It’s important to keep them as priorities in your life, because the strength of our Nation exists in the value system that we oftentimes find on America’s farms and ranches, the value that—of worship and faith, the value of the importance of family, the values of hard work, the values of taking a risk, the values of understanding that if you own a farm or a ranch, every day is Earth Day. Every day is an important day if you’re stewards of the land. Those are incredibly important values that you all embrace in your organization.

And finally, let me tell you, America is a country that needs your help. It needs your help by you all living good—setting good examples for others. It needs your help. All of us can be leaders in individual ways by making right choices, for starters, by being responsible for the decisions you make in life.

But there’s something else you can do, too. Our society—there are some people in our society who hurt. And we can change America one soul at a time. If you find somebody in need, help them out. If you’ve got a neighbor who needs some compassion, take time to help your neighbor understand, somebody loves him. If you’ve got a friend who maybe is lonely and hopeless, put your arm around him or her; become a mentor; become a pal. They may not be the coolest kid in class, but reach out to somebody in need. And you’ll be amazed at what happens.

My job is to rally what I call the armies of compassion, the people all across America who say, “How can I love somebody just like I’d like to be loved myself?” And the great strengths of the country lay in the fact there are millions of people who are helping somebody in need. They don’t need a Government law; they don’t need somebody doing this, that, or the other. What they need is to follow their hearts, and that’s what I ask you to do.

I’m honored to be able to receive you here in the Nation’s Capital. It’s a huge honor to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth. And thank you for coming. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:01 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Trent McKnight, president, and Jennifer Edwards, secretary, National Future Farmers of America Organization.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 20

In the evening, the President participated in discussions and a dinner with representatives from G-8 nations and from Africa, Asia, and Latin America at the Palazzo Doria Spinola in Genoa, Italy.

July 22

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Rome.

July 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Castel Gandolfo, summer residence of Pope John Paul II. In the afternoon, he returned to Rome.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a reception and dinner hosted by President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi of Italy at Quirinale Palace.

July 24

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. In the afternoon, they traveled to Rome, and in the evening, they returned to Washington, DC.

July 25

The President announced his intention to nominate Gaddi H. Vasquez to be Director of the Peace Corps.

The President announced his intention to nominate Randall S. Kroszner to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kimberly Terese Nelson to be As-

sistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Environmental Information.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harold Daub to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Social Security Advisory Board.

July 26

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation from the Oval Office with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia. Later, he met with Representative Charlie Norwood, and then with Senators Joseph Lieberman and Rick Santorum in the Oval Office concerning the Patients' Bill of Rights.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with Erik Weihenmayer, the first visually impaired person to reach the summit of Mount Everest. Also in the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Senator Edward Kennedy concerning the Patients' Bill of Rights.

The President announced his intention to appoint Richard J. Warren as a member of the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission.

July 27

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Representative Charlie Norwood concerning the Patients' Bill of Rights. Later, he met with Senators Max Baucus and Charles Grassley in the Oval Office concerning trade promotion authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Melvin F. Sembler to be Ambassador to Italy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Louis Kincannon to be Director of the Bureau of the Census at the Department of Commerce.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations

to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 23

Christopher William Dell,
of New Jersey, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Angola.

Patricia de Stacy Harrison,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Educational and Cultural Affairs), vice William B. Bader.

Submitted July 25

Bruce Cole,
of Indiana, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of 4 years, vice William R. Ferris, term expiring.

Patrick M. Cronin,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Thomas H. Fox, resigned.

Joseph M. DeThomas,
of Pennsylvania, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

Nils J. Diaz,
of Florida, to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of 5 years expiring June 30, 2006 (reappointment).

Kenneth M. Donohue, Sr.,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, vice Susan Gaffney, resigned.

James Gilleran,
of California, to be Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision for the remainder of the term expiring October 23, 2002, vice Ellen Seidman, resigned.

Marianne Lamont Horinko,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency, vice Timothy Fields, Jr., resigned.

P.H. Johnson,
of Mississippi, to be Federal Cochairperson, Delta Regional Authority (new position).

Patrick Francis Kennedy,
of Illinois, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Donald Stuart Hays.

Michael E. Malinowski,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Nepal.

Arlene Render,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released July 22

Transcript of a readout by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's meeting with President Putin of Russia

Announcement: U.S. Accomplishments—Genoa Summit

Fact Sheet: Russian-American Business Dialogue

Released July 23

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice

Released July 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released July 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released July 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Presidential Delegation to Peruvian Inauguration

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved July 24

H.R. 2216 / Public Law 107–20
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2001

Approved July 26

S. 360 / Public Law 107–21
To honor Paul D. Coverdell

S. 1190 / Public Law 107–22
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to rename the education individual retirement accounts as the Coverdell education savings accounts